

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague from Illinois very much indeed.

INVEST IN EDUCATION

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, as we review all options for reducing Federal expenditures, I am very much of the mind that we should not reduce Federal education assistance. In my opinion, education is an investment in our people and in the future strength and health of our Nation. This is particularly true for programs that are targeted to enhance the educational opportunities of those citizens who need our help the most.

It is without doubt that every aspect of our lives depends upon a well-educated citizenry. I fear that cutbacks in Federal education aid diminish achieving that goal, and weaken our ability to retain our leadership in the world marketplace.

As we debate this rescission bill, however, it is also important that we keep things in perspective. While I regret some of the cutbacks that are part of the package under consideration, it is only fair that we acknowledge that the legislation before us is far better than that so recently approved by the House. In education, for example, the cutbacks are a full \$1 billion less than those in the House bill.

In many areas, there is very good news. There are, for example, no cuts in student aid, no reduction in Pell grants, no cutbacks in campus-based aid, and no curtailment of funding for the SSIG Program.

Aid for the vitally important Dropout Prevention Program is continued. Cutbacks in safe and drug-free schools are a full 80 percent less than those in the House-passed bill. There are few, if any, cutbacks in literacy programs that reach out to help those in need of these services. Cuts in library services and construction are very small. And, funds are provided for a new and very important program of aid in civics and economic education exchanges with the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Thus, while I may have differences on some of the cutbacks contained in this legislation, I find I can support a majority of the provisions with considerable enthusiasm. I believe we must look carefully at the details of this bill. While some provisions could be improved, most are quite encouraging. I want, therefore, to commend Chairman HATFIELD, the members of the Appropriations Committee, and especially their staff for the very long, hard, and thoughtful work they have put into this legislation.

CHANGE OF VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I wish to make this request.

On rollcall No. 124, I voted "yea". It was my intention to vote "nay". Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote. This will in no way change the outcome of the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. AKAKA. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois, Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, thank you.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a subject that has taken a lot of time and attention, particularly in these days, which goes I think to the heart of the American dream and the future that we face as a nation. That subject, of course, is affirmative action.

Mr. President, if I could withhold for just 1 second, please.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, thank you for your patience and indulgence.

Mr. President, I rise this evening to speak about affirmative action. There has been a great deal of discussion about affirmative action lately. Unfortunately, too little of that discussion has focused on the facts. Affirmative action is about working people, about middle-class families, and about jobs.

It is about the basic right of all Americans to have access to education, to have the opportunity to get a good job, to have the opportunity to be promoted when they work hard—to do better than their parents did. It is, quite simply, about ensuring fundamental economic fairness for all our citizens.

We have come a long way in ensuring that economic opportunity exists for all Americans; yet much work remains to be done. That is why it would be extremely shortsighted at this point in time for the Senate to retreat on affirmative action. Before we act, we must consider all of the facts.

We cannot allow cynical political games to be played with an issue of this much importance. And we cannot allow ourselves to fall prey to attempts to make affirmative action a debate about race. It is not. What affirmative action is really about is fundamental fairness. It is about whether each of us will be allowed to fully participate in society, regardless of our gender or race, or will instead be held back by conditions that have nothing to do with merit, or talents and abilities. It

is a debate that lies at the core of our national economic competitiveness.

THE TRUTH ABOUT AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Mr. President, if we consider all the facts, it is abundantly clear that affirmative action is about equal economic opportunity, not just for minorities, but for women as well. It is about providing a chance to compete for those who may still be limited by a glass ceiling or artificial barriers to participation in our economy. In addition, affirmative action is now a business imperative for our country. In spite of the rhetoric and myths surrounding this concept, the truth is that every American stands to benefit when each citizen is given a chance to contribute to the maximum extent of his or her ability.

Our work force is changed. Our country has moved in the direction of making the American dream of opportunity a dream that is open to all Americans. Affirmative action has played a major role in opening up doors and providing opportunity for the millions of people who did not have a chance to participate in the full range of economic activities this country has to offer. And our society has benefitted as a result.

In 1964, when the first Executive order on affirmative action was issued, there were approximately 74 million working Americans. By last year, that number had grown to just over 123 million. In other words, since 1964, our economy has created 50 million new jobs. Although women and minorities entered the work force in unprecedented numbers, these new jobs were not created by taking away jobs held by men. Rather, they were created by making use of the talents that a diverse work force brings to our economy, and using those talents to help create new economic growth and more, new jobs. Affirmative action is not about taking away opportunity but about creating it.

I would like to take a moment to review the experience working women have had with affirmative action. Because many employers made a commitment to fostering diversity, women made significant inroads into professions that had previously been off limits to them. In 1972, women comprised a mere 3 percent of architects. By 1993, that number had climbed to 18.6 percent. In 1972, women were 10 percent of all physicians, but by 1993, that number had grown to 22 percent. In 1972, women made only 4 percent of all lawyers, a number that grew to 23 percent by 1993. And, I might add, this is despite the fact that the Supreme Court, in Bradwell versus Illinois, once upheld a decision by my home State to deny an eminently qualified woman, Myra Bradwell, the right to practice law, solely on the basis of her gender.

Women have made equally significant gains in the science fields. In 1972, women comprised a dismal 0.8 percent of all engineers—less than 1 percent! But by 1993, that number had grown to 8.6 percent. In chemistry, women's